

**Parent and Family Engagement Plan
2023-2024**



GUNTERSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

**Dr. Jason Barnett
Superintendent**

**Jennifer Williams
Chief Academic Officer**

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Purpose

The Parent and Family Engagement Plan for Guntersville City Schools outlines our commitment to fostering strong partnerships between parents, families, schools, and the community. We understand that education is a shared responsibility, and by working together, we can enhance the educational experience and promote academic achievement for all students. This plan serves as a roadmap for how we will collaborate to achieve these goals.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(A))

A. Describe how Local Education will involve parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational agency plan under section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1111(d).

Parent Feedback Mechanisms: Guntersville City Schools will establish effective mechanisms for gathering feedback from parents and family members. One key method is through surveys that are distributed to parents. These surveys will seek input on various aspects of education, including curriculum, school climate, and family engagement. Parent meetings will also be organized, providing opportunities for face-to-face discussions and input.

District and School Level Advisory Councils: Guntersville City Schools will establish District and School Level Advisory Councils that include parents and family members as members. These councils will have a role in reviewing and revising the Title I Plan and Parent & Family Engagement Plans. They will contribute to the development and improvement of strategies that support student achievement and family engagement.

Informing Parents of Rights and Procedures: Guntersville City Schools will ensure that parents are informed of their rights and the procedures for providing input and feedback on important educational plans and processes. This includes explaining how parents can have input in the development of the Title I Plan, Parent Engagement Plans, the Title I budget, and the school-home parent compact.

Distribution of Plans: Guntersville City Schools will make the Title I Plan and Parent & Family Engagement Plans accessible to parents and families. These documents will be sent home with all students at the beginning of each school year, ensuring that parents are aware of the goals, strategies, and expectations related to their child's education. Additionally, the plans will be posted on school and district websites, providing easy access for parents who prefer to review them digitally.

By involving parents and family members in these ways, Guntersville City Schools promotes transparency, collaboration, and shared decision-making in the development of educational

plans and strategies. This inclusive approach ensures that the voices of parents and families are heard and valued in shaping the direction of their children's education, as well as the improvement efforts within their schools and districts. It underscores the importance of the partnership between schools and families in supporting student success.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(B))

B. Describe how the Local Education Agency will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

Guntersville City School System recognizes the value of community resources and partnerships in enriching the educational experience for students and fostering strong parent and family engagement. This comprehensive approach not only benefits students but also strengthens the community as a whole. Here's a closer look at how the school system plans to leverage community resources for these purposes:

Partnerships with Local Businesses and Groups/Clubs: Collaborating with local businesses and community groups/clubs can provide valuable support to families and students. This partnership can encompass a wide range of activities, from providing resources and mentorship to organizing events that benefit the school community.

Promotion of Community Events: Distributing information about community events helps keep parents and families informed about opportunities for engagement beyond the school. This outreach ensures that families are aware of events and activities that can enhance their involvement in the community.

Student-Parent Participation in Community Events: Encouraging students and parents to participate in community events fosters a sense of belonging and connectedness. It helps families become active contributors to the larger community.

Community Volunteer Involvement: Inviting community members to volunteer in schools not only brings additional support and resources but also strengthens the bond between the school and the broader community.

Collaboration with Various Organizations and Agencies: Partnering with different organizations and agencies ensures that all parents, regardless of their circumstances, have the opportunity to be involved in their children's education. This inclusivity is essential for fostering equity and engagement.

Support from Employers: Encouraging employers to support parent engagement demonstrates the recognition that family involvement in education benefits both the workplace and the community. Employers can play a role in facilitating parent participation.

Service Learning Projects: Inspiring students and parents to engage in service learning projects is a powerful way to give back to the community. These projects not only benefit local organizations but also instill valuable life skills in students.

Partnerships with External Organizations: Collaborating with organizations such as the YMCA, health agencies, dental and vision providers, and more demonstrates a commitment to the overall well-being of students and their families. These partnerships offer valuable services and support that can positively impact student success.

By actively involving the community in the educational process and promoting parent and family engagement, Guntersville City School System is creating a more holistic and supportive learning environment. These efforts have the potential to strengthen relationships, enhance resources, and ultimately contribute to the success of students and the entire community.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(C)

C. Describe how the Local Education Agency will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

The Guntersville City Schools are committed to coordinating and integrating parent and family engagement strategies in alignment with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs. Specifically, they will ensure coordination with the following programs:

Integration of Parenting Partners Workshops: Guntersville City Schools partner with various community organizations to offer 6-week parenting programs known as Parenting Partners™ workshops. These workshops not only enhance parenting skills but also empower parents to actively contribute to their children's academic success. The school system will integrate the content and goals of the Parenting Partners workshops with the broader parent and family engagement strategies outlined in their educational plan. This integration will ensure that the skills and knowledge parents gain from these workshops contribute to their involvement in the school community.

Community Education and Local Preschool Programs: Coordination with community education and local preschool programs is vital to ensuring a seamless transition for students and families from preschool to elementary school. Guntersville City Schools will take several steps to promote alignment between these programs:

- Cooperative Planning: The school system will collaboratively plan parent activities and learning opportunities with community education and local preschool programs. This coordination will help ensure that parents receive consistent and complementary information and resources.
- Training Meetings: At least yearly, Guntersville City Schools will hold training meetings with local preschool program teachers and administrators. These meetings will facilitate information sharing and alignment of strategies to support families and children's educational journeys.
- Professional Development: The school system will invite local preschool teachers and Community Education teachers to participate in local professional development activities when applicable. This collaboration of knowledge, experience, and skills will benefit both educators and parents.

Transition Support: Guntersville City Schools will work closely with the OSR funded Pre-K program and regular preschool program to provide parent engagement activities that enhance students' transition to kindergarten. This coordination aims to ensure that families and students are well-prepared for this critical educational milestone.

By coordinating and integrating parent and family engagement strategies with these programs, Guntersville City Schools are taking a holistic approach to support parents, families, and students throughout their educational journey. This alignment ensures that resources and efforts are complementary, leading to more effective and meaningful engagement opportunities for parents and a smoother transition for students as they progress through their education.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(D))

D. Describe how the Local Education Agency will conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying:

(i) barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background)

The Guntersville City School System demonstrates a strong commitment to conducting an annual evaluation of its parent and family engagement plan to continuously improve the quality of its schools. Here are the key actions to meet these targets:

Annual Evaluation with Parent Engagement: The school system will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of its parent and family engagement plan. Importantly, this evaluation will involve the active engagement of parents, ensuring that their voices and perspectives are considered in the assessment process.

Identification of Barriers: During the evaluation, the school system will identify any barriers that hinder greater participation by parents in parent and family engagement activities. Special attention will be given to barriers faced by parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or come from any racial or ethnic minority background.

Use of Evaluation Findings: The findings from the annual evaluation will serve as a foundation for designing more effective parent and family engagement strategies. If necessary, the school system will revise its parent and family engagement plan to address identified challenges and enhance its approach to engaging all parents.

Parent Surveys: Each year, all parents will be provided with a survey to gather feedback about parent and family engagement in each school. The results of these surveys will be carefully

analyzed and used to revise both system-level and school-level parent and family engagement Plans and Continuous Improvement Plans.

Individual Conferences: Schools will schedule and document individual conferences with parents. These conferences will provide a platform for parents to share their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions. The information gathered during these conferences will inform revisions to the System-Level and School-Level Parent Engagement Plans and Continuous Improvement Plans.

Small Group Meetings for ELL Families: To support families with limited English proficiency, the school system will host small group meetings specifically for English Language Learner (ELL) families. These meetings will address questions, provide important information about student progress, and ensure that interpreters are present to facilitate communication and understanding.

Spring Meeting for School Improvement Goals: A spring meeting will be held to evaluate school improvement goals, including those related to diversity and parent and family engagement. This meeting will include the participation of representative parents from the school system's diverse population, ensuring that a broad range of perspectives is considered.

Program Evaluation for Accountability: Family and Community Engagement is a central goal for the Program Evaluation for Accountability. This reflects the school system's commitment to making parent and family engagement a priority in the evaluation and accountability process.

In summary, Guntersville City School System's approach to evaluating and enhancing parent and family engagement is comprehensive and inclusive. By actively involving parents, addressing barriers, and utilizing feedback, the school system strives to create a more welcoming and effective educational environment that supports the success of all students.

(ii) the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers

Guntersville City Schools take proactive measures to assist parents and family members in supporting their children's learning.. These actions demonstrate a strong commitment to breaking down barriers and ensuring that all families have access to the resources and support they need:

Revised Parent Meeting Format: By revising the parent meeting format to be inclusive of all students with language support services, schools ensure that language barriers do not hinder parents' engagement. This inclusive approach makes it easier for all parents to participate and understand the information being shared.

Translation Services: Providing translated letters, documents, and communication, both in hard copy and through technology, is a significant step towards making information accessible to

parents with limited English proficiency. This ensures that language differences do not impede communication.

Support for Visual and Hearing Impaired Parents: Offering services for parents with visual and hearing impairments demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity. These services enable parents with disabilities to engage with school personnel and access essential information.

Transportation Services: Providing transportation services when requested through community partners shows flexibility and responsiveness to parents' needs. It ensures that parents can participate in school activities and meetings without transportation-related barriers.

Home Visits: Conducting regular home visits is a personalized approach to engaging with parents. This practice allows school personnel to build relationships with families and gain a deeper understanding of their needs and challenges.

Parent Surveys and Outreach Programs: Identifying needs through parent surveys and outreach programs is an effective way to gather feedback and understand the specific challenges parents face. This information informs targeted support efforts.

Parent Nights: Hosting parent nights, literacy nights, and math nights provide technical assistance to parents in helping their children academically. These events empower parents with strategies and resources to support their children's learning.

Early Years Literacy Support: Coordinating early years literacy support through the Raising Wildcats Program is an investment in the educational foundation of students below age 5 by providing books, activities, and home visits to these young learners sets the stage for future success.

Student-Led Conferences: Involving students in conferences empowers them to take ownership of their learning. It also creates a more collaborative atmosphere where parents, students, and teachers work together to set goals and track progress.

Collaboration with Community Partners: Collaborating with administrators, the Community Education Department, and local preschool programs for parent meetings and teacher training enhances the school system's ability to provide comprehensive support to families.

Translation Services for School Information: Translating school information into languages parents can understand ensures that all parents have access to critical information about school activities and programs. Making translation services like MasterWord and Language Line available for common forms used in schools simplifies administrative processes and enhances communication with parents.

In summary, Guntersville City's comprehensive approach to addressing barriers and providing support to parents and family members is a testament to their dedication to equity and

inclusivity in education. These efforts create a more welcoming and accessible educational environment for all families.

(iii) strategies to support successful school and family interactions

The Guntersville City School System is taking a comprehensive approach to building the capacity for strong parent and family engagement and fostering effective partnerships among schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. These activities demonstrate the system's commitment to continuous improvement and collaboration:

Annual Meetings on Content Standards and Student Achievement Data: Hosting annual meetings with parents at each school to discuss content standards and student achievement data ensures that parents are well-informed about what their children are learning and how they are performing academically. This open dialogue promotes transparency and understanding.

Easy-to-Read Test Data Brochures: Providing test data in an easy-to-read brochure or pamphlet for parents who cannot attend meetings is a thoughtful way to make complex information accessible. This approach empowers parents to comprehend and engage with their child's academic progress.

Regular Communication: Utilizing various communication channels, including newsletters, articles, websites, social networking, notes, and calendars, helps parents stay informed and engaged in their children's education. These resources provide guidance on how parents can support their children's learning and track their progress.

Parent Meetings at Varying Times: Scheduling parent meetings at different times accommodates diverse schedules and ensures that as many parents as possible have the opportunity to become educated about their children's academic progress and school expectations.

Professional Development for Teachers and Administrators: Investing in professional development for teachers and administrators to enhance their knowledge and skills in coordinating parent programs and building capacity strengthens the partnership between parents and schools. This ongoing learning benefits both educators and parents.

Coordination with Community Education and Preschool Programs: Collaborating with administrators, the Community Education Department, and local preschool programs for parent meetings and teacher training aligns efforts across different educational levels, creating a more seamless and consistent experience for parents and students.

Translation Services: Translating school information and making language support services available through MasterWord and Language Line ensures that language barriers do not hinder parents' understanding or participation.

Parent Volunteer Program: Establishing a school-based Parent Volunteer Program provides opportunities for parents to actively contribute to the school community. These volunteers play a vital role in enhancing the educational experience for all students.

In summary, the Guntersville City School System's approach to building parent and family engagement capacity is multi-faceted and focused on removing barriers while fostering open communication and collaboration. These efforts aim to create a strong foundation for student success by ensuring that parents are active participants in their children's education.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(E)

E. Describe how the Local Education Agency will use the findings of such evaluation described in the section above (Sec. 1116(2)(D)) to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary the parent and family engagement policies described in this section.

The Guntersville City School System is committed to using evaluation findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effectiveness. To accomplish this Guntersville City Schools utilize the following strategies:

Federal Programs Advisory Committee Inclusion: The Federal Programs Advisory Committee will play a central role in this process. Importantly, parents will be included as members of this committee, ensuring that their perspectives and insights are integrated into the decision-making process.

Data Utilization: Data collected from the Parent and Family Engagement Survey and the Parent Advisory Committee will serve as valuable sources of information. This data will be analyzed to identify trends, needs, and areas where parent and family engagement efforts can be enhanced.

Evidence-Based Strategies: The committee will use the data-driven insights to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement. These strategies will be grounded in research and best practices, ensuring that they have a strong likelihood of success.

Resource Allocation: The committee will also determine the appropriate amount of funds needed to support parent and family engagement efforts effectively. Adequate resources are essential for implementing and sustaining these strategies.

Policy Revision: If the evaluation findings, in collaboration with the Parent and Family Engagement Survey and Parent Advisory Committee input, suggest that revisions to the Guntersville City Schools' Parent and Family Engagement Policy are necessary, the Federal Programs Advisory Committee will undertake this revision process.

Overall, this approach is highly proactive and inclusive, ensuring that parents' voices are not only heard but also integrated into the development of evidence-based strategies. It reflects a

commitment to continuous improvement and a responsive approach to parent and family engagement policies and practices within the school system.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(F)

F. Describe how the Local Education Agency will involve parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.

The Guntersville City School System is actively involving parents in the activities of the schools to ensure their input and representation in the development, revision, and review of the parent and family engagement policy. Strategies to accomplish this are listed as follows:

Parent Advisory Council: The school system may establish a parent advisory council, which includes a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency. This advisory board plays a crucial role in representing the needs of the population served by the agency and contributes to the development, revision, and review of the parent and family engagement policy.

Federal Programs Advisory Council: Parents are invited to be part of the Federal Programs Advisory Council. This council actively participates in making revisions to the LEA Title Plan and the LEA Parent Engagement Plan and Policy, which are integral components of the Consolidated Plan. This involvement ensures that parents' perspectives are integrated into these critical documents that guide educational programs and strategies.

School Councils: Guntersville High School has a School Council that includes parents as participants. These councils provide a platform for parents to have a voice in the decision-making processes at the school level. Their input contributes to school-level strategies and initiatives.

Title I Budget Committee: Parents also participate in the Title I Budget Committee, which is instrumental in shaping the allocation of resources for Title I programs. Their involvement ensures that funding decisions align with the needs and priorities of students and families.

Incorporating parents into these advisory and decision-making bodies reflects a commitment to shared governance and collaborative decision-making. It ensures that parents have a direct role in shaping policies, plans, and programs that impact their children's education, and it strengthens the partnership between schools and families.

In order to build capacity for Parent and Family Engagement, the Local Education Agency will ensure effective engagement of parents and will support a partnership among the schools involved, the parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, the LEA shall:

G. Describe how it will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

The Guntersville City School System is dedicated to providing robust assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency to help them understand various aspects of education and support their children's academic achievement. The intended approach to accomplishing this is outlined below.

Materials and Training: The school system will provide materials and training to help parents understand challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of the education program, and how to monitor their child's progress. These resources are designed to empower parents with the knowledge they need to actively support their children's education.

Educating Teachers and Administrators: Teachers and administrators will receive education and training on effective ways to reach out and communicate with parents. This ensures that school personnel are equipped to engage with parents in a meaningful and productive manner.

Accessible Information: Information will be sent home in a language and format that parents can understand to the extent possible. This inclusive approach makes critical information accessible to all parents, regardless of language or literacy levels.

Interpreters: Whenever possible, interpreters will be provided for parent conferences and meetings. This ensures that language barriers do not hinder effective communication between parents and school personnel.

School-Parent-Student Compacts: School-Parent-Student Compacts will be used to outline individual responsibilities and explain how the partnership between parents, students, and schools can result in increased student achievement. These compacts create clear expectations and shared accountability.

Sharing Literacy & Math Information: Information about literacy and numeracy will be shared with community members through news articles and on websites. This outreach extends the knowledge and resources beyond the school community.

Creating an Engaging Atmosphere: The school system will create an atmosphere and expectation of engagement among all parents, fostering a culture where parent and family engagement is encouraged and valued.

Increasing Capacity: Opportunities will be provided to increase the capacity of parents and the community to be involved. Events such as Data Nights, Sweets & Songs, and grade-level productions serve as opportunities for engagement and capacity-building.

Advisory Committees: School and district advisory committees will be developed to provide a structured platform for parents and community members to contribute to decision-making and policy development.

Parent and Community Events: A variety of parent and community events will be scheduled, with a focus on improving student success. These events create opportunities for parents and community members to connect with the school community.

Communication Tools: Communication tools will be developed to encourage stakeholder engagement. These tools facilitate communication and collaboration between schools, parents, and the community.

In summary, Guntersville City School System's approach to assisting parents in understanding and engaging with their children's education is comprehensive, inclusive, and focused on building a strong partnership between schools and families. These efforts are designed to empower parents as active participants in their children's academic journey.

H. Describe how it will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement.

The Guntersville City School System is committed to providing materials and training to empower parents to work effectively with their children to improve academic achievement.

Here's how the school district will achieve this goal:

Materials and Training: The school system will offer materials and training to help parents support their children's education. This includes literacy training and guidance on using technology. Additionally, parents will receive education about the harms of copyright piracy to ensure responsible technology use. These resources empower parents to actively engage in their children's learning.

Educating Teachers and Administrators: Teachers and administrators will be educated on effective methods to reach out to parents and communicate with them. This training equips school personnel with the skills needed to engage parents in meaningful ways.

Accessible Information: Information will be provided to parents in a language and format that they can understand to the extent possible. This inclusive approach ensures that all parents can access essential information about their child's education.

Literacy Information Sharing: Information about literacy will be shared with community members through news articles and websites. This outreach extends the knowledge and resources beyond the school community, fostering a broader culture of literacy.

Creating an Engaging Atmosphere: The school system aims to create an atmosphere and expectation of engagement among all parents, ensuring that parent and family engagement is encouraged and valued.

Capacity Building: Opportunities will be provided to increase the capacity of parents and the community to be involved in education. This includes initiatives such as School Councils and district advisory committees that engage parents in understanding district-wide initiatives and decision-making.

Parent and Community Events: A diverse array of parent and community events will be scheduled, with a primary focus on improving student success. These events provide opportunities for parents and community members to connect with the school community and contribute to student achievement.

Communication Tools: The development of communication tools will encourage stakeholder engagement, making it easier for parents and community members to stay informed and participate in school activities.

Stakeholder Compacts: Parents of students in grades K-8 will be required to sign a stakeholder compact, pledging their involvement in their child's education. This formal commitment underscores the importance of parent and family engagement.

Parent Conferences: Parent conferences will be scheduled at each school, providing structured opportunities for dialogue between parents and educators to monitor and support students' progress.

In summary, Guntersville City School System's multifaceted approach to providing materials, training, and opportunities for parent and family engagement is designed to empower parents to play an active role in their children's academic success. These efforts promote collaboration, inclusivity, and shared responsibility in education.

I. Describe how it will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate

with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.

The Guntersville City School System recognizes the importance of educating various stakeholders, including teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, on the value and utility of parental contributions. To achieve this and foster stronger partnerships between parents and schools:

Meetings and Collaborative Forums: The school system will facilitate meetings and collaborative forums involving principals, school counselors, school leadership teams, and teacher data team meetings. These gatherings serve as platforms to discuss and share ideas on how to increase parent and family engagement effectively.

Shared Ideas: During these meetings and forums, ideas and strategies to enhance parent and family engagement will be shared. This collaborative approach ensures that diverse perspectives are considered and that best practices are disseminated among school staff.

Frequent Communication: Maintaining frequent communication between schools and parents is a key strategy. Various communication channels, including social media efforts, will be utilized to keep parents informed and engaged in school events and their child's academic progress.

Equal Partnership: Educators and school leaders will be educated on the concept of parents as equal partners in the education process. This understanding emphasizes the importance of involving parents in decision-making, program implementation, and educational initiatives.

Reaching Out and Building Ties: Educators will be equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to reach out to parents, communicate effectively, and establish strong ties between parents and the school. This includes understanding cultural and language considerations to ensure inclusive outreach.

Implementing Parent Programs: Training will be provided on how to implement and coordinate parent programs effectively. Educators will learn how to design, execute, and assess programs that actively involve parents in their child's education.

Overall, the school system's approach is characterized by collaboration, open communication, and the recognition of parents as essential partners in the educational process. By educating school staff and fostering meaningful engagement, the system aims to strengthen the school-home partnership for the benefit of students.

J. Describe how it will to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as

parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

The Guntersville City School System is committed to coordinating and integrating parent engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. Here's how they plan to achieve this:

Cooperative Planning: The school system will engage in cooperative planning for parent activities and learning opportunities. This collaborative approach ensures that programs are aligned and complement each other, creating a more seamless and comprehensive support system for parents.

Training Meetings with Preschool Program Staff: Guntersville City Schools will schedule at least yearly training meetings with local preschool program teachers and administrators. These meetings serve as opportunities for sharing knowledge and best practices, ensuring a unified approach to parent engagement across early education programs.

Coordination with OSR Funded Pre-K Program: The school system will coordinate with the OSR (Office of School Readiness) funded Pre-K program and the regular program to provide parent engagement activities that improve student transition to kindergarten. This collaboration ensures a smooth transition for both parents and students entering the K-12 system.

By coordinating efforts, sharing resources, and involving early childhood educators, Guntersville City Schools aims to create a cohesive and supportive network of parent engagement programs that benefit children as they progress through their educational journey. This integrated approach underscores the importance of seamless transitions and consistent support for parents at all stages of their child's education.

K. Describe how it will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

The Guntersville City School System is committed to ensuring effective communication with parents and making information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities accessible to all parents. Here are the key strategies:

Accessible Formats: Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and activities will be provided in a format that parents can easily understand. This includes using plain language and ensuring that materials are user-friendly.

Language Accessibility: To the extent possible, information will be provided in languages that parents are comfortable with and can understand. This ensures that language barriers do not hinder parents' access to critical information. Whenever feasible, interpreters will be provided for

parent conferences and meetings. This service ensures that parents who may have limited English proficiency can fully engage in discussions and activities.

By employing these strategies, Guntersville City School System is dedicated to fostering clear and accessible communication between the school and parents, regardless of language or literacy level. These efforts promote inclusivity and empower parents to actively participate in their children's education.

L. Describe how it will ensure to provide such other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under this section as parents may request.

The Guntersville City School System is dedicated to providing reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities and responding to parents' requests. Here's how they plan to support parent and family engagement:

Annual School Meetings: Each Title I School will host an Annual Meeting with parents to discuss content standards for each grade and the individual achievement of each student. This forum allows parents to gain insight into their child's education and progress.

System-Wide Parent Meeting: A system-wide parent meeting will be scheduled in the fall to present and explain district and state curriculum and assessment information. This meeting provides parents with a broader understanding of the educational framework.

Easy-to-Read Test Data: Test data will be sent home to parents who are unable to attend the meeting. This information will be accompanied by an easy-to-read brochure that explains the data, ensuring that parents can interpret and use the information effectively.

Communication Channels: Various communication channels, including newsletters, articles, information on websites, notes, and calendars, will be used to keep parents informed and help them support their children's education and monitor their progress.

Parent Meetings and Conferences: Parent meetings and conferences will be scheduled at all schools at different times to accommodate parents' schedules and help them become more educated about their children's academic progress and school expectations.

Community Education and Online Tutorials: Community Education, in collaboration with schools, will schedule events and provide online tutorials on various topics to foster parent engagement. These resources expand parents' knowledge and skills in supporting their children's education.

Professional Development: Teachers and administrators will continue to attend professional development sessions and invest in literature to enhance their ability to implement and coordinate parent programs and build strong ties between parents and schools.

By providing a wide range of support and resources, Guntersville City School System aims to empower parents and ensure that they are well-informed and actively engaged in their children's education. Their commitment to responding to parents' requests underscores the importance of collaboration between schools and families in supporting student success.

M. Describe how the LEA may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.

The Guntersville City School System recognizes the importance of involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training. Here's how they plan to achieve this and educate their educators in working collaboratively with parents:

Professional Learning for Teachers: The school system will provide teachers with professional learning activities on how to conduct effective parent-teacher conferences. This training equips teachers with the skills needed to engage parents in meaningful discussions about their child's progress and educational needs.

Effective Communication: Professional learning activities will be conducted with teachers to emphasize the importance of effective communication with parents. Teachers will be trained to embrace parents as partners in educating their children and to create a resource inventory that identifies the strengths, skills, and cultural and contextual knowledge of both parents and faculty members.

Respectful and Productive Relationships: Professional learning activities will focus on how to establish and maintain respectful and productive relationships with families. Building positive relationships with parents is fundamental to a successful partnership between home and school.

Utilizing Communication Channels: The school system will use various communication channels, including newsletters, websites, and forms of social media, to regularly communicate with families. These tools facilitate ongoing communication and engagement between educators and parents.

By involving parents in the development of training and providing educators with the necessary skills and knowledge, Guntersville City School System aims to create a collaborative and supportive educational environment. This approach recognizes parents as valuable partners in their children's education and promotes effective communication and engagement between schools and families.

N. Describe how the LEA may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.

The Guntersville City School System's plan to utilize Title I funds to enhance content area training demonstrates a strong commitment to improving the quality of education for both teachers and students. Here's a recap of their strategic allocation of funds:

Professional Development for Instructional Coaches: Title I funds will be used to provide high-quality professional development in literacy for instructional coaches. These coaches are instrumental in supporting teachers and students in literacy instruction, ensuring that best practices are implemented effectively across the district.

Professional Development for ELA Teachers: The allocation of Title I funds to support professional development for English Language Arts (ELA) teachers is vital. This investment directly impacts the quality of literacy instruction, not only in ELA classrooms but also across the curriculum. Strengthening literacy skills benefits students in all subject areas.

Professional Development Libraries: Establishing professional development libraries that facilitate Literacy Book Studies for school faculties is a proactive approach to continuous improvement. Engaging educators with current literacy research and best practices empowers them to enhance their teaching methods and, in turn, positively impact student learning outcomes.

By using Title I funds in this manner, Guntersville City School System ensures that educators have access to valuable professional development opportunities that foster growth and innovation in literacy instruction. Ultimately, this investment serves to improve the educational experience and outcomes for all students in the district.

O. Describe how the LEA may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

The Guntersville City School System's commitment to facilitating parent and family engagement is commendable. By offering to pay reasonable expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, such as transportation and child care costs, the district demonstrates its dedication to making it as convenient as possible for parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

Additionally, organizing parent workshops and events in low-income housing developments is a thoughtful and inclusive approach to engaging parents and families. This initiative not only provides an opportunity for parents to come together with educators but also helps build a sense of community and support among families.

By using local community development centers and keeping costs at a minimum, the district ensures that financial barriers do not hinder parents' involvement in their children's education. This proactive approach promotes greater inclusivity and accessibility for all parents, fostering a stronger partnership between schools and families.

P. Describe how the LEA may train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents.

The Guntersville City School System's plan to establish a parent education program and empower parents to enhance the engagement of other parents is a proactive and empowering initiative. Here are the key elements of their approach:

Parent Education Program: The district's long-term goal of establishing a parent education program is a strategic move to provide parents with valuable knowledge and skills. These informational sessions are designed to help parents not only connect with one another but also learn from each other, creating a supportive and collaborative community.

Collaborative Learning: Through programs like Parenting Partners and Raising Wildcats, parents have the opportunity to collaborate and learn parenting skills side by side. This hands-on approach encourages peer-to-peer learning and allows parents to share their experiences and insights with one another.

Parent Facilitators: A noteworthy aspect of this initiative is the empowerment of parents to become facilitators themselves. Upon completing the program, parents are equipped to hold their own parenting classes within the schools. This "train the trainer" model empowers parents to take an active role in educating and supporting their peers.

By implementing this approach, Guntersville City School System not only enhances parent and family engagement but also fosters a sense of community and shared responsibility among parents. Empowering parents to empower each other creates a more robust and supportive educational environment for students and families.

Q. Describe how the LEA may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parent and family engagement and participation.

The Guntersville City School System's commitment to maximizing parent and family engagement and participation is evident through its comprehensive approach. Here's a summary of the key activities and strategies they are implementing to build strong partnerships between schools, parents, and the community:

Variety of Meeting Times: The district arranges school meetings at various times during the day, after school, and in the evening to accommodate parents with different schedules. This flexibility

has resulted in increased parent and family engagement, ensuring that more parents can participate in important school-related events.

Annual Meetings: Each Title I School holds an Annual Meeting with parents to discuss content standards and individual student achievement. These meetings provide a platform for parents to gain insights into their child's education.

System-Wide Parent Meeting: A system-wide parent meeting is scheduled to present and explain district and state curriculum and assessment information in the fall. This initiative ensures that parents are informed about educational developments at a broader level.

Effective Communication: The district uses various communication tools, including newsletters, articles, websites, notes, and calendars, to keep parents informed about their children's progress and school-related information.

Parent Meetings and Conferences: Parent meetings and conferences are scheduled at all schools at different times to accommodate parents' schedules and enhance their understanding of their children's academic progress and school expectations.

Community Education and Online Tutorials: Collaborative efforts with Community Education involve scheduling events and providing online tutorials on various topics to foster parent engagement. This outreach extends beyond the classroom, ensuring that parents have access to valuable resources.

Professional Development: Teachers and administrators are committed to continuous improvement. They attend professional development sessions and invest in literature to enhance their ability to implement and coordinate parent programs and build strong ties between parents and schools.

Translation Services: To ensure inclusivity, the district translates school information into languages that parents can understand. Translation services are also available at parent conferences and meetings, further promoting accessibility and understanding.

By implementing these strategies, Guntersville City School System is actively working to build the capacity for strong parent and family engagement. This collaborative approach fosters a partnership between schools, parents, and the community, ultimately contributing to improved student academic achievement and a more supportive educational environment.

R. Describe how the LEA may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement.

The Local Education Agency (LEA), such as the Guntersville City School System, can adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement by leveraging

research-based practices and proven strategies. Here's a description of how an LEA may go about this:

Research and Identify Model Approaches: The LEA begins by conducting research to identify model approaches that have been successful in improving parent and family engagement in other school districts or communities. This research involves studying best practices, examining case studies, and reviewing existing literature on effective parent and family engagement strategies.

Needs Assessment: Before implementing any model approach, the LEA conducts a thorough needs assessment to understand the specific challenges and opportunities for parent and family engagement within its own district. This assessment may involve surveys, focus groups, interviews, and data analysis to gather insights from parents, teachers, and other stakeholders.

Selection of Model Approaches: Based on the needs assessment and research, the LEA selects one or more model approaches that align with its goals and the unique characteristics of its school community. These model approaches can encompass various aspects of parent and family engagement, such as communication, family involvement, and partnership-building.

Customization and Adaptation: While adopting a model approach, the LEA customizes and adapts it to fit the local context and the diverse needs of its families. This may involve tailoring communication strategies, support programs, or engagement initiatives to address specific challenges or cultural considerations.

Professional Development: The LEA provides professional development opportunities for educators, administrators, and staff members to ensure they are well-equipped to implement the model approach effectively. This may include training on culturally responsive practices, effective communication strategies, and building positive relationships with parents.

Resource Allocation: The LEA allocates resources, including funding, personnel, and technology, to support the implementation of the chosen model approach. This may involve investing in tools for communication, family events, or staff training.

Continuous Evaluation: The LEA establishes a system for continuous evaluation and assessment of the model approach's impact on parent and family engagement and student outcomes. Regular data collection, surveys, and feedback mechanisms help gauge the effectiveness of the initiatives.

Stakeholder Involvement: Parents and families are actively involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the model approach. Their input and feedback are solicited to ensure that the strategies are responsive to their needs and preferences.

Community Partnerships: The LEA may form partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and community groups to enhance parent and family engagement efforts. These collaborations can provide additional resources, expertise, and opportunities for family involvement.

Sharing Best Practices: As the LEA successfully implements the model approach and observes positive outcomes, it shares best practices and lessons learned with other schools or districts, contributing to broader improvements in parent and family engagement regionally or nationally.

By adopting and implementing model approaches in this manner, the LEA can enhance parent and family engagement, strengthen school-family partnerships, and ultimately contribute to improved student achievement and well-being.

S. Describe how the LEA may establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in programs supported under this section.

Establishing a districtwide Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is a valuable strategy for actively involving parents in providing advice and guidance on matters related to parent and family engagement in programs supported under this section. Here's a description of how the Local Education Agency (LEA) may go about establishing and operating such a council:

1. Define the Purpose and Goals:

The LEA begins by clearly defining the purpose and goals of the district wide Parent Advisory Council. This includes specifying the areas of focus, such as parent and family engagement strategies, program improvement, and the overall enhancement of the educational experience for students and families.

2. Identify Key Stakeholders:

The LEA identifies key stakeholders, including parents, guardians, community members, educators, and school administrators, who will serve as members of the PAC. Ensuring diversity in representation is important to reflect the various perspectives within the school community.

3. Outreach and Recruitment:

The LEA conducts outreach and recruitment efforts to invite parents and community members to participate in the PAC. This may involve advertising through school newsletters, websites, social media, and direct communication with parent-teacher organizations.

4. Selection and Composition:

The LEA establishes a process for selecting PAC members. Members should be representative of the district's student population, including diverse backgrounds, languages, and grade levels. The council may include both elected and appointed members.

5. Regular Meetings:

The PAC holds regular meetings, typically on a monthly or quarterly basis, to discuss matters related to parent and family engagement. These meetings provide a platform for open dialogue, idea sharing, and collaboration among members.

6. Agenda Setting:

Meeting agendas are collaboratively set with input from PAC members. Topics for discussion may include reviewing parent and family engagement programs, assessing their effectiveness, proposing improvements, and sharing feedback from the parent community.

7. Communication and Transparency:

The LEA ensures that PAC meetings are transparent and open to the public. Meeting minutes, agendas, and key outcomes are shared with the broader parent community to keep them informed about the council's activities.

8. Collaboration with School Leadership:

The PAC collaborates closely with school district leadership, including superintendents, administrators, and school board members. This partnership ensures that the council's recommendations are considered in decision-making processes.

9. Data and Research:

The PAC may request and review relevant data, research, and reports related to parent and family engagement and program outcomes. This data-driven approach helps inform recommendations and decisions.

10. Advocacy and Outreach:

- The PAC may engage in advocacy efforts to promote parent and family engagement within the district and advocate for necessary resources and support. This includes communicating with local policymakers and community leaders.

11. Evaluation and Continuous Improvement:

- The LEA and the PAC regularly assess the effectiveness of the council's activities in enhancing parent and family engagement. Adjustments and improvements are made based on feedback and outcomes.

12. Reporting and Accountability:

- The PAC provides periodic reports and recommendations to the LEA, school board, and the broader community. This ensures accountability and transparency in the process.

By establishing a districtwide Parent Advisory Council with a diverse and engaged membership, the LEA can tap into valuable insights, experiences, and perspectives to enhance parent and family engagement programs and initiatives, ultimately benefiting students and families throughout the district.

Guntersville City Schools' parent and family engagement Committee plays a vital role in advising and shaping various plans and initiatives aimed at enhancing parent and family engagement within the district. Here's an overview of how this committee operates and contributes to building strong parent and family engagement:

Advisory Role:

- The parent and family engagement Committee serves as an advisory body to the school district. It provides input, recommendations, and feedback on key plans and programs, including the Consolidated Plan, English Learner (EL) Plan, Title II professional learning plan, and Parent and Family Engagement plan.

Diverse Representation:

- The committee ensures diverse representation by including parents from each school within the district and representing various student ethnic groups. This diversity ensures that the perspectives and needs of different communities are considered in decision-making.

Focus on Academic Standards:

- Each Title I School within the district conducts an Annual Meeting with parents to discuss content standards for each grade level and individual student achievement. This practice helps parents understand academic expectations and the progress of their children.

Curriculum and Assessment Information:

- The district hosts a system-wide parent meeting in the fall to present and explain district and state curriculum and assessment information. This meeting empowers parents with knowledge about the educational framework and assessments.

Data Sharing:

- To ensure that all parents have access to important information, test data is sent home in an easy-to-read brochure to parents who are unable to attend the meetings. This

practice promotes transparency and encourages parent and family engagement in student progress.

Communication Strategies:

- Various communication channels, including newsletters, articles, website updates, notes, and calendars, are used to keep parents informed about important events, educational resources, and ways they can support their children's learning.

Flexible Meeting Scheduling:

- Parent meetings and conferences are scheduled at varying times across all schools to accommodate the diverse schedules and needs of parents. This flexibility promotes inclusivity and encourages greater participation.

Educational Empowerment:

- The district is committed to educating parents about their children's academic progress and school expectations. These efforts aim to empower parents to take an active role in their children's education.

Through the active engagement of the parent and family engagement Committee and the implementation of these initiatives, Guntersville City Schools is working to build strong partnerships between schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement and overall educational outcomes. This collaborative approach recognizes the importance of involving parents as valued partners in the educational journey of their children.

Regenerate

Translating school information and providing interpretation services are essential steps to ensure effective communication and engagement with parents who may have limited English proficiency. Here's how Guntersville City Schools plans to facilitate language accessibility for parents:

1. Translating School Information:

- School information, including notices, newsletters, and important documents, will be translated into languages that parents can understand. This practice ensures that all parents, regardless of their language background, have access to crucial information about school events, policies, and student progress.

2. Interpreter Availability at Meetings:

- To further support parents with limited English proficiency, the school district will make interpreters available at parent conferences and meetings. These interpreters will help bridge the language barrier, enabling parents to fully comprehend and actively participate in discussions related to their children's education.

3. Transact for Common Forms:

- Transact, a language translation service, will be utilized to translate common forms used in schools. This technology streamlines the translation process, making it easier for parents to complete essential paperwork and forms accurately.

4. Promoting Comfort and Understanding:

- The goal is not only to provide translation but also to create a comfortable and inclusive environment for parents. Parents should feel at ease and confident when engaging with school personnel, knowing that their language needs will be met.

By offering translation services and interpreter support, Guntersville City Schools demonstrates its commitment to breaking down language barriers and ensuring that all parents have the opportunity to actively participate in their children's education. This proactive approach fosters a stronger partnership between schools and families, ultimately benefiting student success and academic achievement.

T. Describe how the LEA may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent engagement activities.

Guntersville City Schools recognizes the value of collaboration with community-based organizations and businesses to enhance parent and family engagement activities. Here's how the school district plans to involve these partners:

1. Identifying Specific Needs:

Guntersville City Schools will assess the specific needs of parents and families within the district. When certain needs are identified, and expertise or resources from community-based organizations or businesses are required, the district will seek collaboration.

2. Partnering for Expertise:

The district will collaborate with community-based organizations and businesses that possess expertise in areas relevant to parent engagement. This partnership may involve these entities contributing their knowledge and resources to support parent and family initiatives.

3. YMCA Partnership:

Guntersville City Schools has already established a partnership with the Heart of the Valley YMCA to provide after-school and summer programming. This collaboration exemplifies how community-based organizations can play a role in enhancing the educational experience and engagement of students and families.

By developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, Guntersville City Schools aims to leverage external expertise and resources to strengthen parent and family engagement efforts. These partnerships contribute to a holistic approach to education, benefiting students, parents, and the broader community.

Sec. 1116(f)

U. Describe how the Local Education Agency will use the findings of such evaluation described in the section above (Sec. 1116(2)(D)) to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary the parent and family engagement policies described in this section.

Guntersville City Schools is committed to using the findings of annual evaluations to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise parent and family engagement policies when necessary. Here's how the district plans to implement this process:

1. Annual Evaluation:

The school district will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of its parent and family engagement policy and plan, focusing on Title I, Part A schools. This evaluation will include a comprehensive assessment of how well the policy is working to engage parents and improve the quality of education.

2. Identifying Barriers:

The evaluation will specifically identify barriers that may hinder greater parent participation in engagement activities. Attention will be given to parents who face economic disadvantages, disabilities, limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or are from racial or ethnic minority backgrounds.

3. Parent Surveys:

All parents will be given an annual survey to gather their feedback and perspectives on parent engagement within each school. These survey results will be analyzed and used to inform improvements in both district-level and school-level parent and family engagement policies and plans.

4. Individual Conferences:

Individual conferences with parents will be scheduled and documented. These conferences serve as opportunities to engage directly with parents, understand their concerns, and gather insights into how to enhance parent engagement. Information from these conferences will be used in revising parent and family engagement plans.

5. Small Group Meetings with EL Families:

Small group meetings will be organized specifically for English Learner (EL) families. These meetings aim to address questions and provide information about student progress. An interpreter will be present to ensure that language is not a barrier to understanding important information.

By following this systematic process of evaluation, feedback collection, and collaboration with parents, Guntersville City Schools will continuously improve its parent and family engagement efforts. The insights gained from these activities will inform evidence-based strategies and policy revisions to enhance parent engagement, ultimately benefiting student achievement and educational outcomes.

This LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by:

The Guntersville City School System's Parent and Family Engagement Policy demonstrates a collaborative approach with parents in its development and revision. Here's how the district has ensured the involvement of parents in this process:

1. Parent Involvement in LEA Title I Plan:

Parents are actively included in the development and revision of the Local Education Agency (LEA) Title I Plan. Their input and feedback are considered, making them key stakeholders in shaping the educational strategies and priorities.

2. School-Parent Compacts:

Parents also play a role in the creation and revision of school-parent compacts. These compacts outline the shared responsibilities and commitments between the school and parents to support student success.

3. Local Schools CIP Process:

The district involves parents in the Comprehensive Improvement Plan (CIP) process at the local school level. This engagement ensures that parents have a voice in the development of strategies for school improvement.

4. Schools' Title I Budget Committees:

Parents are invited to participate in schools' Title I budget committees. This involvement allows parents to contribute to decisions regarding the allocation of Title I funds to support educational programs and initiatives.

5. Communication Methods:

The district uses various communication methods, including email and virtual modes, to ensure that parents can participate in meetings and stay informed even if they are unable to attend in person.

6. Documentation:

Sign-in sheets, agendas, and meeting minutes are maintained for all meetings involving parents. This documentation helps track parent involvement and ensures transparency in the decision-making process.

Through these collaborative efforts, the Guntersville City School System demonstrates its commitment to engaging parents as partners in education. This partnership is essential in fostering a supportive and enriching educational environment for all students.